

Approved Minutes for CPC Meeting of 8/24/05, 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm, Library Meeting Room

Attending:

Peter Berry, Walter Foster, Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Catherine Coleman, Edmund Starzec, Nancy Tavernier, Ken Sghia-Hughes, Andy Magee, Matt Lundberg, Kristin Alexander

Audience:

Gim Hom, Tom Michelman, Anne Forbes

Approval of Minutes—The minutes of 6/23/05 were approved as amended.

OLD BUSINESS

Membership

There was a brief discussion regarding the re-appointment of Nancy, Andy, and Ken to the CPC. Walter agreed to follow up with the Board of Selectmen to confirm re-appointments.

Edmund Starzec was introduced as the new member representing the Planning Board on the CPC, replacing Stacey Rogers. Everyone welcomed Ed.

The Volunteer Coordinating Committee (VCC) is still reviewing at-large candidates to recommend to the Board of Selectmen.

Election of Officers

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

Chairman—Matt Lundberg

Vice-Chairman—Susan Mitchell-Hardt

Clerk—Ken Sghia-Hughes

At this point in the meeting, Matt took over the chair.

Upcoming Fall Schedule

After discussion, the following schedule was laid out:

9/8—Public Hearing in Town Hall. (Kristin will check on getting Room 204 and changing the website notice to reflect this.)

9/8—Vote plan, if possible. (Can be postponed to 9/22 if needed)

11/14—Proposals due

11/17—CPC meeting held, re-scheduled from 11/10

A brief discussion followed regarding publicity for the plan and the schedule. Matt will put together a complete schedule.

The Committee discussed scheduling interest groups to come talk to the Committee to find out where groups are heading, what projects are coming up, and how current projects are progressing. The following schedule was agreed upon:

9/22—Housing (8:00) and Historic (8:30)

10/6—Open Space (8:00) and Recreation (8:30)

Nancy will notify Acton Community Housing Corporation (ACHC) and Habitat.

Matt will notify the Recreation Commission

Andy will notify the Open Space Committee

Matt will ask Bob Coan to notify the Historic groups

Ken will notify the Housing Authority

PROJECT UPDATES

Bruce Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT)

Tom Michelman, representing the Friends of the BFRT, provided an update to the Committee.

Tom had no information about the amount that would be requested this year.

The Friends of the BFRT is now a 501-3C organization.

MassHighway has now agreed to include a Rt. 2 crossing for the rail trail in the plans for the re-design of the Rt. 2 rotary.

The Friends board has been expanded to now include representatives from each of the towns that the rail trail passes through, and the meeting location is rotated through each town.

Concord has completed a feasibility study. Sudbury has voted funds for a feasibility study.

The Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) has added the rail trail to the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) list for 2008. Construction of the trail in Westford has been delayed due to contaminated soil issues.

The Friends group is doing outreach and publicity at various local events.

The \$75,000 approved by the CPC last year have not been spent.

A brief discussion with the Committee followed. It was suggested that the requests for funding be spread out over the next few years, rather than waiting and asking for a large sum all at once. No work has been done so far on the Rex Lumber crossing or the Rt. 2A crossing. (Rex Lumber and the Town are involved in a lawsuit regarding noise violations.)

Town Hall Slate Roof

We lost the architect company from the proposal, and now have a new one from Providence, Rhode Island. They will do a site visit next week, and hoping for a bid in November, and work beginning in April. The Town might need to come back to the CPC for more funds, as the amount appropriated seemed low to the new architectural firm.

TJ O'Grady Skatepark

The concrete work and grading are complete. Parking and site work will be completed in the next few weeks. There is an issue with the larger structure not yet being certified for safety. The Town will not let the equipment be installed or open the park until the certification is obtained. The Town is working with the designer and another engineer to obtain a safety certification. Walter was not

sure how the project finances ended up. The project was expanded from the proposal that was funded. Walter stated that this project is a good example of what can happen if we don't keep track of the separate funding sources. In the future we should make sure the leveraged monies are spent before CPC allocated money.

Morrison Farm

The Morrison Committee was not very active this summer. It is still working on recommendations for the use of the property. The \$50,000 of CPC money for the a feasibility study have not been spent, and may not need to be spent.

Leary Field

Project was completed 2 weeks early. The field is currently in use. New goal posts are going in, and a new scoreboard has been donated. The project was \$65,000 over-budget, with the over-run covered by Friends of Leary Field. An additional \$22,000 was raised to re-surface the track at the same time.

Colonel Faulkner Plaque—No update. The plaque has not been put up yet.

Jones Tavern Chimney

Anne Forbes provided an update. The project was completed a couple of weeks ago. They are pleased with the work. The mason has been paid, and they will be submitting an invoice to the Town for disbursement of CPC funds. Town Council has given them until October 1 to get a preservation restriction in place.

Historic District Signage—Anne Forbes reported that this project will get going in the fall.

Historic Survey—Requests for proposals are being drawn up.

Civil War Artifacts Display—No report.

Pine Hawk Display Case

Progress is being made. The case should be installed in the fall in Town Hall. They are in the process of getting approval from the Federal Government. The artifacts have been catalogued, the display cabinet has been purchased, and they have secured a spot in Town Hall.

Willow/Central

ACHC got a vote of support from the Board of Selectmen, and has been given authority for site control, to proceed with the State Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) and the Town Board of Appeals, and to turn the project over to developers. ACHC has to pay back taxes on the property (State requirement), so they are looking for state grants.

Fire Truck Restoration—No report.

McCarthy Village—A site plan is being developed. It looks like it will cost more money than appropriated last year.

Wampus Ave—There is an agreement in place with the developer to purchase one unit.

FUTURE PROJECTS

Habitat for Humanity has formed a local group and is moving forward with plans.

Walter has heard some interest in seeking funding for lighting school ballfields.

Andy knows there is some interest in purchasing a parcel of land in the \$150,000 to \$200,000 range.

NEW BUSINESS

The BOS oversight meeting for CPC will be on November 1, 2005. We are scheduled from 7:10 to 7:25. Walter requested that members submit questions/issues directly to the Selectmen before the meeting, rather than bringing up issues on the floor for the first time. One issue raised was to ask the Selectmen if there is support for raising the CPA surcharge. Bonding is another potential issue, but the Committee felt that this should not be brought up at the oversight meeting. We should get clarification on this issue from John Murray. The Committee agreed that the oversight meeting would be a good opportunity to educate townspeople about what we do. Matt will have a 5 minute introduction to our committee. Matt and Walter will work together on the entire agenda.

Walter suggested a picture album be created with all the completed projects funded with CPA monies.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Sghia-Hughes